

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02

USIA-15 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 IO-13

LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CEA-01

AF-08 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 /118 W

-----180652Z 085215 /10

R 171338Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 492

UNCLAS BOGOTA 2517

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CO

SUBJ: GSP UNCTAD SEMINAR, BOGOTA - MARCH 2-11, 1977

REF: A. STATE 10708; B. GENEVA 0496; C. STATE 053291

1. THE FINAL MEETING OF THE GSP UNCTAD SEMINAR WAS HELD FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 11.
2. THE FIRST MORNING SESSION CONCENTRATED ON REVIEWING THE RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THREE WORKING GROUPS MADE UP OF DELEGATES FROM THE 15 PARTICIPATING BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES. THESE WORKING GROUPS STUDIED SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE VARIOUS GSP SCHEMES. TOPICS STUDIED WERE: A. THE GSP AND THE ECONOMIC INTEGRATION MOVEMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA: A. B. BENEFITS OF THE GSP FOR COMMERCE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND PROBLEMS IN THE PRACTICAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHEMES INCLUDING NORMS OF ORIGIN; C. ACTIONS ADOPTED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE BENEFITS OF THE GSP AND POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL MEASURES INCLUDING EXPORT PROMOTION.
3. IN THE SECOND MORNING SESSION OF THE FINAL MEETING, BRIEF STATEMENTS WERE MADE BY: THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EL SALVADOR ON BEHALF OF THE SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS, THE REPRESENTATIVE

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OF THE SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS, THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ON BEHALF OF THE GSP-GRANTING COUNTRIES, MR. PRADHAM, AND THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR. FINALLY, GERMAN BOTERO, PRESIDENT OF THE COLOMBIAN BANCO DE LA REPUBLICA (CENTRAL BANK), GAVE THE CLOSING ADDRESS. BOTERO'S REMARKS CONSISTED OF A VIGOROUS AND DETAILED CRITICISM OF THE GSP SYSTEM AS PRESENTLY STRUCTURED. HE NOTED THAT COLOMBIA

HAS RECEIVED ONLY VERY "LIMITED" BENEFITS FROM THE SCHEME AND THAT ONLY FIVE PERCENT OF COLOMBIA'S TOTAL EXPORTS ACTUALLY FALL UNDER THE VARIOUS GSP SCHEMES. HE STRONGLY CRITICIZED LIMITED, PRODUCT COVERAGE, NON-PERMANENCE OF THE SCHEMES, SAFEGUARD CLAUSES, COMPETITIVE NEED LIMITATIONS, ETC.

4. DESPITE BOTERO'S VIGOROUS CRITICISM, THE CONFERENCE ITSELF WAS CONDUCTED BY PRADHAM AND THE UNCTAD TEAM ON A TECHNICAL LEVEL. GENERAL COMMENTS DURING THE FINAL SESSIONS INDICATED THAT THE TONE OF THE MEETINGS WAS MORE DIRECTED TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING AND UTILIZING EFFECTIVELY THE VARIOUS PREFERENCE SCHEMES, RATHER THAN TURNING THE DISCUSSIONS INTO A POLITICAL FORUM.

5. INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REF C WAS PASSED TO PRADHAM AND CUBILLOS AS REQUESTED. THIS INFORMATION WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL UNCTAD REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE RESULTS.

6. A COPY OF THE FINAL REPORT AS WELL AS THE COMPLETE REPORTS OF THE WORKING COMMITTEES WILL BE POUCHED.
SANCHEZ

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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